

REMARKS

The above amendments and following remarks are submitted under 37 C.F.R. 1.116 in response to the Final Official Action of the Examiner mailed May 4, 2004 (i.e., Paper No. 13). Having addressed all objections and grounds of rejection, claims 4-5, 7-13, 16-17, and 19-20, being all the pending claims, are now deemed in condition for allowance. Entry of this amendment and reconsideration to that end is respectfully requested.

The remaining issue in the prosecution of this application is the final rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of claims 1-3, 5, and 11-20. Claims 4-5 and 7-10 have been found to contain allowable material but have been objected to as depending from rejected base claims.

In response thereto, claims 1-3 and 6 have been canceled. Claim 4 has been amended to render it an independent claim having all of the limitations of claims 1-3 from which it had previously depended. Similarly, claim 7 has been amended to render it an independent claim having all of the limitations of claim 6 from which it had depended.

With regard to claims 11-20, Applicants have reviewed the Examiner's reasons for allowance of claims 4 and 7. In response thereto, independent claims 11 and 16 have been amended to render

them consistent with these reasons for allowance. This has necessitated cancellation of claims 14-15 and 18 and a slight amendment to claim 19. As a result, claims 11-13, 16-17, and 19-20 are now deemed patentable for the same reasons as found for allowability of claims 4 and 7.

Having thus responded to each objection and ground of rejection, Applicants respectfully request entry of this amendment and allowance of claims 4-5, 7-13, 16-17, and 19-20, being the only pending claims.

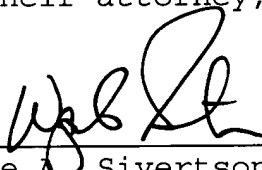
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Respectfully submitted,

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By their attorney,

Date July 6, 2004


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